



Department of Energy

Ohio Field Office
175 Tri County Parkway
Springdale, Ohio 45246

JAN 30 2004

Mr. James A. Saric, Remedial Project Manager
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region V, SR-6J
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

OH-0191-04

Dear Mr. Saric:

This letter is in reference to our January 13, 2004, telephone conversation.

As we discussed, there may be an opportunity to remove the Monitored Natural Attenuation and other groundwater related initiatives from consideration as alternatives in the final Fernald Risk Based End State (RBES) document. Removal of these initiatives would better focus both of our resources on discussions concerning necessary site infrastructure changes that will result in the most efficient Groundwater Treatment at Fernald.

I look forward to working collaboratively with your agency, Ohio EPA, the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board and other interested stakeholders to further refine that concept into yet another step toward significant improvement to the Fernald Cleanup.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 513-246-0018.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert F. Warther", is written over a circular stamp.

Robert F. Warther
Manager

cc:

Gary Schafer, USEPA
Tom Winston, OEPA
Graham Mitchell, OEPA
James Bierer, FCAB
Bill Taylor, OH/FCP





Department of Energy

Ohio Field Office
175 Tri County Parkway
Springdale, Ohio 45246

JAN 30 2004

Mr. John Dowlin, President
Hamilton County Commissioners
138 E. Court Street, Room 603
Cincinnati, OH 45202

OH-0193-04

Dear Mr. Dowlin:

I would like to extend an invitation to the Hamilton County Commissioners to visit the Fernald Closure Project (FCP). This year promises to be the most significant ever in the remediation of the Fernald site. We will begin extraction and treatment of waste from Fernald's silos, complete the demolition of our former production buildings, and complete treatment and shipment of material from the Waste Pits.

The visit to Fernald will give you a first hand look at the progress being made toward our 2006 cleanup completion goal, and provide you and the other Commissioners with the opportunity to meet site managers who can answer any questions you might have on Fernald's cleanup and post closure plans.

We will contact your staff in the near future to arrange a date for your visit. I look forward to seeing you at Fernald.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert F. Warther".

Robert F. Warther
Manager

cc:
Bill Taylor, OH/FCP





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

2004 JAN 13

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF

Mr. Robert Warther
United States Department of Energy
Ohio Field Office-Springdale
175 Tri-County Parkway
Cincinnati, Ohio 45246

SR-6J

RE: RBES and Site Infrastructure

Dear Mr. Warther:

Thank you for your January 30, 2004, letter regarding our January 13, 2004, telephone conversation. You are correct in that removal of the Monitored Natural Attenuation and other groundwater related initiatives from consideration as alternatives in the Fernald Risk Based End State (RBES) document would facilitate the initiation of discussions on the necessary site infrastructure changes that will result in the most efficient groundwater treatment at the Fernald site.

I look forward to working collaboratively, with the United States Department of Energy; the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the Fernald Citizen's Advisory Board and other interested stakeholders on this issue.

Please contact me at (312) 886-0992, if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

James A. Saric
Remedial Project Manager
Federal Facilities Section
SFD Remedial Response Branch #2

cc: Jim Woolford, U.S. EPA-FFRRO
Jessie Roberson, U.S. DOE
Johnny Reising, U.S. DOE-Fernald
Tom Schneider, OEPA-SWDO
Graham Mitchell, OEPA-SWDO

memorandum

Ohio Field Office

DATE: FEB - 9 2004

REPLY TO: FCP:Reising
ATTN OF:

OH-0208-04

SUBJECT: **FERNALD CLOSURE PROJECT DRAFT RISK-BASED END STATE VISION**

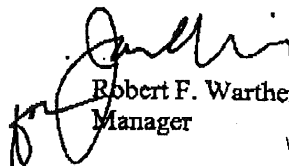
TO: Jessie Hill Roberson, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, EM-1

On November 22, 2003, the Fernald Closure Project (FCP) submitted an initial version of the FCP Draft Risk-Based End State (RBES) Vision. A revised version of this document was due to you by February 1, 2004. In order to accommodate the changes we recently discussed and to incorporate document revisions and reproduction, it has been necessary to delay this re-submittal until February 20, 2004.

Based upon further review, evaluation and stakeholders and regulator interaction, the RBES Vision being pursued at the FCP for groundwater has been modified. The most cost-effective infrastructure to support groundwater remediation Post 2006 Closure will be identified and installed to replace the Advanced Waste Water Treatment Facility. This alternate infrastructure would not require formal changes to the Operable Unit 5 Record of Decision or associated regulatory permits.

The FCP RBES Vision is being modified to reflect this initiative. We anticipate obtaining stakeholder and regulatory consensus pertaining to this action by March 31, 2004.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (513) 246-0018.

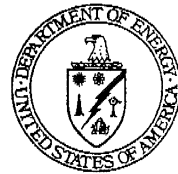

Robert F. Warther
Manager

cc:
J. Lehr, EM-34
J. Kang, EM-51
J. Craig, OH/OOM
S. Smiley, OH-PA
W. Taylor, OH/FCP





Department of Energy
Ohio Field Office
Fernald Environmental Management Project
P. O. Box 538705
Cincinnati, Ohio 45253-8705
(513) 648-3155



February 20, 2004

DOE-0163-04

Distribution

**FERNALD CLOSURE PROJECT REVISED DRAFT RISK-BASED END STATE
VISION**

On February 20, 2004, the Fernald Closure Project (FCP) submitted a revised draft Risk-Based End State (RBES) Vision document to the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management (EM-1). The revised RBES Vision document has been modified based on comment received from the DOE-HQ RBES Review Team, Stakeholders and Regulators. The text that has been modified is underlined in the document.

The RBES Vision being pursued relative to Groundwater at the FCP is to identify and install the most cost effective infrastructure to replace the Advanced Waste Water Treatment Facility prior to Site Closure. This alternate infrastructure removes Monitored Natural Attenuation from consideration and would not require formal changes to the Operable Unit 5 Record of Decision or associated regulatory permits.

In order to provide maximum availability for review and comment, the OH Web page (www.ohio.doe.gov/RBES.asp) contains the links to the prior and current versions of the OH Sites Draft RBES Vision documents including the FCP, February 20, 2004 version. A copy of the current version of the FCP Draft Vision document is enclosed.

The final RBES Vision document is to be submitted to EM-1 on March 30, 2004. In order to allow the FCP to appropriately consider all public comments in our submittal, I am once again soliciting your input and comments on these documents by March 15, 2004.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 513-648-3101.

Sincerely,

WJ Taylor
William J. Taylor
Director

FCP:Reising

Distribution

-2-

DOE-0163-04

Enclosure: As Stated

cc w/o enclosure:

R. Warther, DOE/OH
J. Craig, DOE/OH
G. Griffiths, DOE/OH
S. Smiley, DOE/OH
D. White, DOE/OH
B. Taylor, OH/FCP
D. Kozlowski, OH/FCP
J. Reising, OH/FCP
G. Stegner, OH/FCP
P. Yerace, OH/FCP
E. Woods, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS65-2

Distribution List:

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Mr. Marvin Clawson
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Institute of Environmental Sciences
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Ms. Carol Schroer, FRESH
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Harrison, Ohio 45030

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Cincinnati, Ohio 45231

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Hamilton, Ohio 45013

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Alexandria, VA 22314

Mr. Gene Jablonowski
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Ms. Edwa Yocum, FRESH
9850 Hamilton Cleves Pike
Harrison, Ohio 45030

Mr. Steve Depoe
Department of Communications
University of Cincinnati
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Cincinnati, Ohio 45221-0184

Dr. M. Kathryn Brown
5137 Salem Hill Lane
Cincinnati, Ohio 45230

Mr. Lou Doll
6595 Bridgetown Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45248

Mr. William Knollman
7493 Willey Road
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

United States Government

Department of Energy

Ohio Field Office

memorandum

Fernald Environmental Management Project

DATE: February 20, 2004

REPLY TO

ATTN OF: FCP:Reising

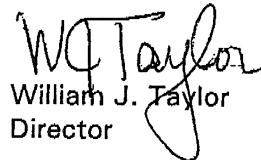
DOE-0136-04

SUBJECT: FERNALD CLOSURE PROJECT DRAFT RISK-BASED END STATE VISION

TO: Jessie Hill Roberson, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, EM-1/FORS

Attached for your review is the second version of the Fernald Closure Project Draft Risk-Based End State (RBES) Vision. The RBES Vision has been revised based on comments received from the DOE-HQ RBES Review Team. Pursuant to the February 9, 2004 letter from the Ohio Field Office Manager to you, the RBES Vision related to groundwater has been modified. Copies of Stakeholder and Regulator correspondence related to the RBES Vision have been added to Appendix B.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 513-648-3101.


William J. Taylor
Director

Attachment: As Stated

cc w/attachment:

J. Lehr, EM-34/CLOV

J. Kang, EM-51/CLOV

cc w/o attachment:

R. Warther, OH/Springdale

J. Craig, OH/Springdale

G. Griffiths, OH/Springdale

S. Smiley, OH/Springdale

G. Stegner, OH/FCP

T. Hagen, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS1

D. Sizemore, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS5

J.D. Chiou, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS64

M. Jewett, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS52-5

J. Wagner, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS76

S. Walpole, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS76

E. Woods, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS65-2

CROSBY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The United states Department of Energy, on November 13, 2003, presented an Executive Summary concerning Fernald site's Draft Risk Based End State Vision Document; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned document raises serious concerns to the public health and safety of the residents of Crosby Township and surrounding areas due to the fact that the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency finds all of the proposals unacceptable; and


WHEREAS, the United States Department of Energy has recommended certain alterations or changes to the original Draft Risk-Based End State Vision Document without sufficient input and evaluation from local officials and the public; and

WHEREAS, these aforementioned decisions were reached over years of education, discussion and compromise, the pressure to implement these changes ignores all the effort put in by the community, the public officials, site personnel and regulators over the past ten years; and

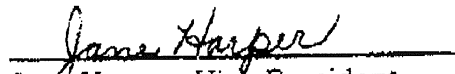
WHEREAS, Hamilton County commissioner, Todd Portune, is committed to support the original framework and ROD (Record of Decision);

THEREFORE, The Crosby Township Board of Trustees endorses and supports the effort to hold the Department of Energy to the terms of the original ROD.

Approved this 23rd Day of February 2004


Warren E. Strunk, President


Gary Storer, Trustee


Jane Harper, Vice President


Attest: Jane Pirman

RESOLUTION No. 10-04

Hamilton

County, Ohio

Colerain

Be It Resolved by the Township Trustees of.....Township, that

Whereas after 10 years of collaboration, three groups consisting of FRESH, OEPA and USEPA and Flour Fernald, agreed upon the Department of Energy's (DOE) Records of Decision (RODS) for Flour Fernald, and

Whereas the DOE is possibly considering changes to the Risk Base End State (RBES) draft document concerning the Flour Fernald cleanup, and

Whereas the impact that this change could potentially have on the RODS is a great concern to the members of Fresh, OEPA, USEPA, and Colerain Township Board of Trustees, especially with the concerns of a potentially more hazardous clean-up process, now therefore

Be It Resolved that the Colerain Township Board of Trustees is in support of the stance to honor the RODS as originally proposed by the Department of Energy for the clean up of Fernald without any deviation.

RECEIVED

MAR. 1 - 2004

Todd Portune

Adopted the 24th day of February 2004

Attest:

Township Clerk

Township Trustees

Fernald Atomic Trades & Labor Council

AFL - CIO Metal Trades Affiliated



Gene Branham, President

Allen "Mooch" Callaway, Vice President

Carl "Rock" Root, Financial Secretary

Tina Mefford-Craig, Recording Secretary

Ray Beatty, Trustee

Joseph Siciliano, Trustee

Marcel Monroe, Trustee

Gene Lang, S/A

Leland Russell, Guide

Richard Tinsley, Safety Director

Ray Beatty, Training Director

Leland Russell, CPI Advocate

Pete Branham, CPI Advocate

March 9, 2004

The Honorable Jessi Roberson

The Department of Energy has suggested alternatives to what they've chosen to characterize as The Current State at the Fernald Environmental Remediation Site. The Current State to which they refer to is, in fact, the Consent Decree they entered into fifteen years ago. This document mandates the goals for remediation (including aquifer restoration) and limitations on contaminant discharges to the Miami River at this site. The community has in good faith embraced D.O.E.'s commitment to these mandates. From the outset the members of the Fernald Atomic Trades and Labor Council have worked tirelessly to achieve the remediation goals established by the Consent Decree. Now D.O.E. would like to change the rules.

Simply put, D.O.E.'s priorities have changes and they're looking for a fiscal shortcut to conclude their activities at the Fernald Site. To do this they must convince E.P.A. and the community that regulatory shortcuts are in order. The community opposes taking any of the shortcuts suggested by D.O.E. The Fernald Atomic Trades and Labor Council also strongly objects to the changes that have been suggested.

D.O.E.'s alternatives in one form or another all come down to removing and treating less contaminated groundwater from the site and discharging more contaminants to the Miami River. They hope that time and dilution will take care of the rest. This is not what they originally promised to do. It's not the end result our members have worked so hard to achieve. We believe future generations will condemn us if we allow the clean-up of the Fernald site to be cut short by shifting near-term fiscal priorities. Yet this is exactly what D.O.E. is suggesting.

Another D.O.E. proposal is to do an overall averaging of the radioactivity levels to decide what waste can go into the on-site disposal facility, instead of the current rule that caps the level of radioactivity for individual pieces of waste. This also is not what was promised and could further compound the problem for future generations.

From 1951 to 1989 our members produced the finest uranium products obtainable within D.O.E.'s nuclear weapons complex. We contributed our best efforts towards maintaining our country's strategic defense. At the end of the Cold War we redirected our focus to the remediation of the Fernald site. We've devoted ourselves to this goal with the same pride in doing the best job possible that we exemplified during the previous thirty eight years of production. Despite D.O.E.'s changing priorities we're still committed to remediating the Fernald site safely and completely.

D.O.E. has presented lots of charts, graphs, and statistics to show that their alternatives to complying with the Consent Decree will pose "no significant risk" to the public. We're sure they've sponsored mountains of studies which also just happen to support their immediate objectives. One thing these studies can't claim, however, is that the contaminants we leave behind will just disappear. In seventy million years, ninety-nine percent of all the uranium left in the ground at Fernald or dumped into the Miami River will still be somewhere. It may be slowly diffusing through the Miami Aquifer - a sole source aquifer for hundreds of thousand of people. It may be gradually working its way through the ecosystems of the Miami and Ohio Rivers on its way to an already stressed Mississippi delta. What will the generations to come think of us when our contaminants show up on their doorstep? How much will it cost them to remedy the problems that D.O.E.'s alternatives potentially create? How little will it cost us to stick to the goals we set out to achieve fifteen years ago?

Sincerely,


Gene Branham

President, Fernald Atomic Trades & Labor Council

Cc: Commissioner Todd Portune
Senator George Voinovich
Senator Mike DeWine
Representative Rob Portman
Representative Ted Strickland
Representative Steve Chabot
Gary Stegner, DOE Fernald



March 10, 2004

Mr. Robert Warther
DOE Ohio Field Office
175 Tri-County Parkway
Springdale, OH 45246-3222

Dear Mr. Robert Warther,

Chair
James C. Bierer

Vice Chair
Lisa Crawford

Members
M. Kathryn Brown
Sandy Butterfield
Marvin W. Clawson
Lisa Crawford
Stephen P. Depoe
Louis Doll
Pamela Dunn
Gary Storer
Robert G. Tabor
Gene E. Willeke

Ex Officio Members
L. French Bell
Gene Jablonowski
William Taylor
Graham Mitchell

Support Staff
The Perspectives Group

The Fernald Citizens Advisory Board is writing to clarify our recommendations and concerns regarding the long-term strategy for meeting DOE's legal requirements to remediate uranium contamination in the Great Miami Aquifer. As you know, the aquifer is the most important source of drinking water in the region. As such, all plans for groundwater remediation are critically important to the FCAB and other Fernald stakeholders. Remediation and protection of the aquifer were the driving factors in all of our recommendations and subsequent decisions with regard to waste disposition, soil cleanup levels, and the waste acceptance criteria for the on-site disposal facility. The FCAB has been satisfied with the original cleanup agreements, which were reached nearly a decade ago through extensive shared learning and negotiation, and as such, looks upon proposed changes to those agreements with a very critical eye.

The FCAB was gratified that DOE dropped its proposals to increase discharge limits and eliminate the treatment of groundwater. This allowed stakeholders to concentrate on the reasonable options for amending DOE's strategy to complete groundwater remediation. The FCAB is also pleased with the tremendous effort made by Fluor Fernald to create and share information so that we could all engage in meaningful dialogue about the options. We hope that these efforts signal a desire by DOE to return to the types of participation and constructive relationships that made Fernald the success that it is today.

Based on the information provided in recent months, the FCAB believes that the proposal to replace AWWT with a smaller facility for the post-closure period at Fernald has merit. Most importantly, we believe that the safe D&D of the AWWT facility and associated soils can be most effectively conducted while on-site experience and capacity are in place rather than having to hire new contractors and remobilize needed equipment at some future date. This provides added assurance to the public that this final piece of major infrastructure will be safely and efficiently disposed of. Managing the final disposition of a much smaller and simpler unit will certainly be easier and result in fewer impacts to the surrounding community when the time comes for its ultimate disposal.

Mr. Robert Warther
March 10, 2004

and dialogue about this important topic, especially to those residents directly affected by this proposed change. This is especially important as this proposed action would extend, by a number of years, the time until area residents can enjoy unrestricted and safe use of the aquifer. The continued and dramatic decreases in resources for communication and public participation are making it increasingly difficult to engage in the kinds of activities that are necessary to effectively handle these difficult late changes to cleanup. The public outcry that arose last fall regarding proposed changes to groundwater cleanup is one example of the need for early and complete communication with stakeholders.

6. Reinvestment of Savings

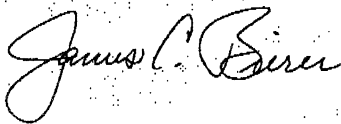
The FCAB requests that any savings realized as a result of this action be given back to Fernald in the form of increased resources for the long-term stewardship of the site, particularly for ongoing community outreach designed to maintain awareness of the site. The FCAB strongly believes that community awareness of the site, its risks, and the controls that are in place to manage those risks is critical for the continued protection of human health and the environment. Outreach programs would also help draw people to the site and transform the site into a community asset.

7. Timely Communication of Groundwater Decisions

If DOE receives approval from regulators to proceed with action to replace AWWT with a smaller facility and D&D AWWT for disposal in the OSDF, the FCAB expects to be notified immediately of this decision and provided with a full explanation of all criteria and provisions placed on this decision by the regulators. Furthermore, the FCAB wants to be kept informed of progress and data related to the implementation of these decisions.

Considering the importance and time-critical nature of this issue, the FCAB requests very detailed responses to our concerns and issues before the decision is finalized. We expect a response that reflects the same level of care and understanding that we have invested in addressing this issue so that we may understand exactly how each of the above factors will be incorporated into DOE's actions. If there is any further input or information that you require of the FCAB, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



James C. Bierer
FCAB Chair



Lisa Crawford
Vice-Chair

cc:

Jaime Jameson
Sandra Waisley
Mike Owen
SSAB Chairs

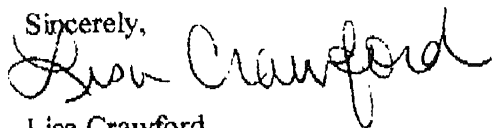
Page 2

The cleanup of the Fernald Closure Project should focus on carrying out the agreements already in place. The methods, cleanup levels and timetables set forth in those agreements are technically feasible and ethically responsible. The agreements were negotiated by multiple parties - DOE, the USEPA, the OEPA and stakeholder organizations like FRESH, Inc. These agreements represent the minimum, not the maximum, obligation that DOE has to the community surrounding the Fernald Closure Project.

Thank you for the opportunity to yet again comment on the RBES, though we must note our dismay that only one (1) public meeting was held on the RBES. Moreover, we note that the RBES Vision is based in part on DOE's "Top To Bottom Review", which also lacked broad stakeholder participation. We at FRESH, Inc. strongly believe that the cleanup of contaminated sites benefits from public participation. That has been clearly and successfully proven here at the Fernald Closure Project. Community knowledge and input contribute to both good science and a democratic decision-making process.

Please feel free to contact me at (513)738-1688 or (513)738-8055 if you have questions and/or need clarification.

Sincerely,



Lisa Crawford
President
FRESH, Inc.

LC:eac

cc's: files

Jim Saric, USEPA
Tom Winston, OEPA
Senator George Voinovich's Office
Senator Mike Dewine's Office
Rep. Rob Portman's Office
Rep. Steve Chabot's Office
Jessie Roberson, DOE/HDQ
Robert Warther, DOE/HDQ



Hamilton County

Board of County Commissioners

John S. Dowlin
Commissioner
President of the Board
Phone (513) 946-4405
Fax (513) 946-4404

Phil Heimlich
Commissioner
Phone (513) 946-4409
Fax (513) 946-4407

Todd Portune
Commissioner
Phone (513) 946-4401
Fax (513) 946-4446

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Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

TDD/TTY: (513) 946-4719
www.hamilton-co.org

David J. Krings
Administrator
Phone (513) 946-4420
Fax (513) 946-4444

Jacqueline Panioto
Clerk of the Board
Phone (513) 946-4414
Fax (513) 946-4444

March 11, 2004

Gary Stegner
Fluor Fernald
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 538705
Cincinnati, Ohio 45253-8705

Dear Mr. Stegner:

The Board of County Commissioners, at its meeting on February 11, 2004 adopted a Resolution providing comment to the Secretary of Energy on the continued clean-up/closure at the Fluor Fernald Uranium Processing Site.

I am enclosing a certified copy of said resolution for your records.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jacqueline Panioto".

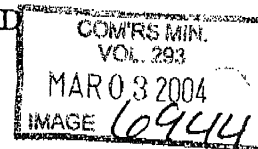
Jacqueline Panioto, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners
Hamilton County, Ohio

Enclosure
JP/das

FILED
2004 MAR 15 A 11:39
LOG 10529
FERNALD

On motion of Mr. Portune, seconded by Mr. Dowlin the following resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION PROVIDING COMMENT TO THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY ON
THE CONTINUED CLEAN-UP/CLOSURE AT THE FLUOR FERNALD
URANIUM PROCESSING SITE**



20-1
WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton, Ohio acknowledges the accomplishments to date of all parties involved in the cleanup of the Fernald Uranium processing plant site, and;

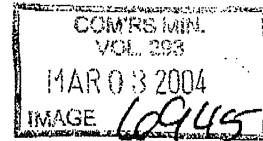
WHEREAS, the Records of Decision process should serve as the model for other sites across the county; and;

WHEREAS, multiple regulatory, as well as, other governmental agencies came together with the battered community nearly a decade ago, and after years of debate they jointly established the standard all could support, in an effort to return the Fernald site to the community in a way that would honor the sacrifices that had been made by individuals and the community as a whole during the Cold War; and;

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners resolved to provide comment to the Department of Energy by the March 15, 2004 deadline established in the recently proposed Risk Based End State document after hearing the concerns of the participants in their March 1, 2004 Commission meeting; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County, Ohio supports the continued and strict adherence to the legally binding Records of Decisions (RODS), and that no such changes as outlined by the recently released Risk Based End State (RBES) document be given consideration as they only serve to undermine the integrity of the pre-existing plan and the very lengthy and public process that was undertaken to reach consensus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton, Ohio desires to emphasize the importance of providing the highest level of safety standards as the Fernald Closure Project reaches the most dangerous final phases with the treatment and removal of material from the silos; and



BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners be and is hereby authorized to certify copies of this resolution to the Secretary of Energy, the Ohio, Congressional Delegation, USEPA, OHIO EPA, FRESH and Fluor Fernald.

ADOPTED at a regularly adjourned meeting of the Board of County Commissioners this 3rd day of March, 2004.

Mr. Heimlich. **AYE**

Mr. Portune. **AYE**

Mr. Dowlin. **AYE**



Department of Energy

Ohio Field Office
175 Tri County Parkway
Springdale, Ohio 45246

MAR 12 2004

Mr. John S. Dowlin, Commissioner
Board of County Commissioners
County Administration Building, Room 603
138 East Court Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

OH-0245-04

Dear Commissioner Dowlin:

I am writing to follow up on our March 1, 2004 meeting between representatives of the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Hamilton County Commissioners. During the meeting, the Commissioners requested information on the next steps in the Risk Based End States (RBES) process.

By March 31, 2004, the Fernald Closure Project (FCP) will finalize its RBES Vision document and submit it to the DOE Office of Environmental Management at DOE Headquarters (HQ). As with previous drafts of the Vision, the document will include letters or other feedback provided by the regulators or stakeholders throughout development of the Vision. This feedback will be taken into consideration by the Department as it determines, for each EM Site, whether DOE Site Management should initiate dialogue with the regulators on pursuit of a Risk-Based End State that is different from the current regulatory framework (e.g., existing Records of Decision). Any eventual decision by the Department to pursue such a dialogue with the regulators, at one or more EM sites, will take into account the objectives and desires of the local governments and affected stakeholders.

As discussed at our meeting, the current Fernald RBES Vision Document does not propose modifications to currently approved groundwater Records Of Decision (ROD). However, modifications to the site surface and groundwater treatment facilities are being discussed with regulators and stakeholders. Preliminary indications are that there may be a way to reduce the size of the site water treatment facility, dispose of it in the On Site Disposal Facility prior to site closure, and continue to meet current regulatory discharge limits without any modification to existing RODs.



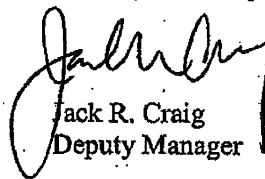
Commissioner Dowlin

-2-

MAR 12 2004

I want to thank you again for the opportunity to meet with you and the other Commissioners, and reaffirm my commitment to meet with you periodically to update you on the progress of the Fernald cleanup.

Sincerely,



Jack R. Craig
Deputy Manager

cc:

Commissioner Heimlich
Commissioner Portune